

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 28424 01 OF 02 271558Z

44

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AEC-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 SMI-01 NSF-02

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 CU-04 /115 W

----- 004066

R 271530Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4637

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 28424

OES/SCI PASS NSF GEORGE JAMES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, TGEN

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FRENCH COMMITTEE FOR
THE COORDINATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

REF: A) PARIS A-84 B) PARIS 24848

1. SUMMARY: THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH (CNRS) AND THE FRENCH UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER
ADVANCED EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN SPLIT AWAY
FROM THE NATIONAL EDUCATION MINISTRY AND MADE THE RE-
SPONSIBILITY OF THE NEWLY CREATED SECRETARIAT OF STATE
FOR UNIVERSITIES. TO AID THIS SECRETARIAT IN THE MAN-
AGEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY-LEVEL SCHOOLS AND THE CNRS,
WHICH COMPRISES MORE THAN 130 LABORATORIES COVERING
THE SPECTRUM OF SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES, A COMMITTEE FOR
THE COORDINATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HAS BEEN ES-
TABLISHED. HENCEFORTH, NOT ONLY WILL THE CNRS LABORA-
TORIES HAVE TO JUSTIFY THEIR RESEARCH PROGRAMS ON A
PROJECT BASIS, AS HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE, BUT SO ALSO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 28424 01 OF 02 271558Z

WILL THE UNIVERSITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO

RECEIVING GENERAL RESEARCH SUPPORT FUNDS WITHOUT DIRECTION AS TO HOW THEY SHOULD BE USED. A POSSIBLE NEGATIVE RESULT WILL BE THAT IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS TO PURSUE RESEARCH IDEAS WHICH ARE NOT YET DEMONSTRATED TO BE WORTHY OF PROJECT SUPPORT. A POSSIBLE POSITIVE BENEFIT MAY BE THAT YOUNGER, LESS ESTABLISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS WILL HAVE A GREATER CHANCE TO ACHIEVE SUPPORT BASED ON THE MERITS OF THEIR RESEARCH PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON OCTOBER 22, JEAN-PAUL SOISSON, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR UNIVERSITIES, PRESIDED OVER THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEWLY CREATED COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. AS REPORTED IN "LE FIGARO," THE ROLE OF THIS BODY, WHICH WILL MEET ONCE A MONTH, IS TO ASSURE THE EXECUTION OF GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH POLICIES BY UNIVERSITIES, LABORATORIES OF THE CNRS, THE MAJOR ENGINEERING SCHOOLS, THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, THE COLLEGE OF FRANCE, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS RECEIVING GENERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR BASIC RESEARCH.

3. IN COMMENTING ON THE FIGARO ARTICLE, MR. VOLFIN, A SENIOR OFFICIAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS IN THE CNRS, AND MR. FAVRET, A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF THE NEW SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR UNIVERSITIES, NOTED THAT THE GENERAL RESEARCH MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES WILL REMAIN THE SAME, SEE REF. A. THEY STATED THAT THE COMMITTEE FOR THE COORDINATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IS ESSENTIALLY A TOOL DESIGNED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR UNIVERSITIES, WHICH WAS CREATED IN JUNE 1974 BY PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING, TO ASSURE BETTER COORDINATION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY THE VARIOUS BODIES NOW UNDER ITS SUPERVISION: THE UNIVERSITIES, CNRS (WHICH FORMERLY WAS RESPONSIBLE TO THE MINISTRY FOR NATIONAL EDUCATION) AND THE "GRANDES ECOLES." (THE "GRANDES ECOLES" COMPRISE A DOZEN OR SO ELITE COLLEGES OF FRANCE SUCH AS ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE, ECOLE NORMALE SUPERIEURE, ECOLE NATIONALE D'ADMINISTRATION, ECOLE NATIONALE DES ARTS ET MANUFACTURES, AND SO FORTH.) VOLFIN SAID THAT IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE RESEARCH FUNDS ALLOTTED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PARIS 28424 01 OF 02 271558Z

TO THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR UNIVERSITIES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ACCORDING TO APPROVED PROGRAMS RATHER THAN, AS IN THE PAST, ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF RESEARCHERS WITHOUT DIRECTION AS TO PROJECT TOPICS. THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR UNIVERSITIES WILL ALSO WORK TOWARD IMPROVING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND INDUSTRY.

4. IN COMMENTING ON THE FACT THAT HIS ORGANIZATION WOULD NOW BE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR UNIVERSITIES, PROFESSOR BERNARD GREGORY, DIRECTOR OF THE CNRS, TOLD SCICON THAT NOT ONLY WILL CLOSER CONTROL BE EXERCISED OVER UNIVERSITY RESEARCH BUT ALSO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CNRS LABORATORIES WILL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 28424 02 OF 02 271612Z

44

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AEC-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 SMI-01 NSF-02

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 CU-04 /115 W

----- 004396

R 271530Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4638

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 28424

BE SUBJECTED TO GREATER SCRUTINY.

5. COMMENTS: PREVIOUS TO THIS CHANGE, UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS WERE GIVEN UNDIRECTRUNDIRECTED RESEARCH FUNDS WITH WHICH THEY COULD DO ESSENTIALLY AS THEY PLEASED. THE MORE MOTIVATED PROFESSORS WERE ABLE TO USE THIS SUPPORT TO DEVELOP NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS TO THE POINT WHERE THEY WOULD BE SEEN WORTHY OF PROJECT FUNDING BY AN INTERESTED SPONSORING AGENCY. THE FORMER SYSTEM OF UNDIRECTED SUPPORT MADE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW ALL THE RESEARCH BEING PURSUED IN THE GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED UNIVERSITIES,

AS NOTED BY CNRS BARBOUTEAU DURING THE RECENT VISIT
TO FRANCE OF SMITHSONIAN REPRESENTATIVES (REF B). ONCE
THE NEW SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR UNIVERSITIES IS IN
FULL OPERATION, IT WILL BE EASIER TO ACQUIRE INFORMATION
ON UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROJECTS, BUT IT RAISES THE QUES-
TION AS TO WHETHER RESEARCH PROFESSORS WILL BE HAMPERED
IN STUDYING NEW IDEAS WHICH ARE NOT READILY JUSTIFIABLE
IN TERMS OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT INTERESTS. IN COUNTER-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 28424 02 OF 02 271612Z

BALANCE, REQUIRING PROFESSORS TO JUSTIFY THEIR PROJECTS
MAY MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR LESS SENIOR RESEARCHERS WITH
PROMISING IDEAS TO ACQUIRE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT.
RUSH

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, RESEARCH, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS28424
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740344-0797
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974117/aaaaafvg.tel
Line Count: 187
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) PARIS A-84 B) PARIS 24848
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 NOV 2002 by MorefiRH>; RELEASED <13 NOV 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <25-Nov-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FRENCH COMMITTEE FOR THE COORDINATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, TGEN, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005